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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 40th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 12 May 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Other matters

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08-33519 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/62/631, A/62/720 and A/62/781/Add.6)

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (A/62/562; A/62/719 and Corr.1; A/62/781/Add.7)

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/62/611, A/62/679, A/62/781/Add.3 and A/62/817)

1. **Mr. Karia** (Peacekeeping Financing Division), speaking as Officer-in-Charge of the Peacekeeping Financing Division and introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/631), said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/18 B, had appropriated funding of $489,207,100 and that expenditure had been $484,020,100, leaving an unencumbered balance of $5,187,000, representing an implementation rate of 98.9 per cent.

2. The main causes of the variance were the delayed deployment of some military contingents and the reduction in the authorized military strength of the Mission pursuant to Security Council resolution 1702 (2006), as well as reduced expenditure on air transportation, primarily resulting from delayed procurement of firefighting and meteorological services. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $5,187,000, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $34,594,200.

3. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/720), which represented a proposed total of $575,103,200, he said that the sum concerned was $39,730,400, or 7.4 per cent, higher than the resources approved for 2007/08 by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/284.

4. The main causes of the variance were greater expenditure on military contingents, primarily attributable to the payment of mission subsistence allowance to staff officers, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/276, the proposed deployment of 16 contingent-owned vessels for coastal patrols, and greater expenditure on United Nations police, attributable to an increase in mission subsistence allowance rates and the application of a delayed deployment factor of 3 per cent for 2008/09, as compared to a factor of 15 per cent in 2007/08. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $575,103,200 to maintain the Mission from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009; to assess the amount of $167,738,433 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 15 October 2008, and to assess the amount of $407,364,767 at a monthly rate of $47,925,267 for the period from 16 October 2008 to 30 June 2009 should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

5. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/562), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/277, had appropriated funding of $39,865,200 and that expenditure had been $39,549,000, leaving an unencumbered balance of $316,200, representing an implementation rate of 99.2 per cent.

6. The main cause of the variance was that actual requirements for the settlement of death and disability claims and for reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment had been lower than originally predicted. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $316,200, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $2,412,500.

7. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/719 and Corr.1), which represented a proposed total of $45,726,000, he said that the sum concerned was $6,063,500, or 15.3 per cent, higher than the resources approved for 2007/08 by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/287.

8. The main causes of the variance were greater expenditure on military contingents, primarily attributable to the payment of mission subsistence allowance to staff officers, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/276, and additional facilities and infrastructure costs arising from the construction of security walls, gates, barriers and storage facilities. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate

$45,726,000 to maintain the Force from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009; to assess the amount of $3,810,500 for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008, and to assess the amount of $41,915,500 at a monthly rate of $3,810,500 should the Security Council decide to continue the Force's mandate.

9. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/611), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/280, had appropriated funding of $42,619,400 and that expenditure had been $41,702,600, leaving an unencumbered balance of $916,800, representing an implementation rate of 97.8 per cent.

10. The main causes of the variance were delayed recruitment of international staff, leading to a vacancy rate of 12.3 per cent in place of the rate of 5 per cent applied in the budget, and therefore to lower costs for that category of staff; and reduced expenditure on air transportation resulting from fixed-wing aircraft being used for fewer than the number of hours originally planned because heavy rainfall had forced the closure of four airfields. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $916,800, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $1,986,900.

11. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/62/817), he said that additional requirements had arisen for the maintenance of the mission during that period. Totalling $1,754,200, they represented an increase of 4 per cent over the budget of $44,321,600 approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/290.

12. The main causes of the variance were greater expenditure on air transportation resulting from the deployment under new contracts of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft and greater than expected expenditure on locally provided services and on the rotation of the Mission's military observers due to the depreciation of the United States dollar against the Moroccan dirham. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate and assess $1,754,200 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 over and above the $44,321,600 already appropriated for the same period pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/290.

13. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/679), which represented a proposed total of $45,728,400, he said that the sum concerned was $1,406,800, or 3.2 per cent, higher than the resources approved for 2007/08 by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/290.

14. The main causes of the variance were greater expenditure on air transport caused by the increased cost per flight hour resulting from a new contract for fixed-wing aircraft, and additional expenditure on other supplies, services and equipment because an operational mine-action programme had been established in the Mission. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $45,728,400 to maintain the Mission from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009; and to assess that amount at a monthly rate of $3,810,700 should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

15. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (A/62/781/Add.6), said that the increased resources in the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 should be considered in the context of the most recent Security Council resolutions on the Mission, which had expanded its mandate to include, inter alia, patrols along the maritime and land borders in support of Haitian National Police border security efforts.

16. Annex II to the Advisory Committee's report listed expenditure directly related to the expanded mandate, including the cost of deploying 16 contingent-owned marine vessels and the related freight and fuel costs, estimated at $5.5 million; increased air transportation costs due to a change in the aircraft used, estimated at $4.4 million; and expenditure on 24 additional general temporary assistance positions for border control support, estimated at $0.5 million. The remaining additional resources were being requested to meet increased costs

for the support of the military and police component and the civilian staffing component.

17. With respect to the civilian staffing component, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of 13 of the 14 proposed new posts but recommended against the proposed establishment of a P-3 post of Information/Reporting Officer, believing that those functions could be carried out from within existing resources or by a member of the United Nations country team. The Advisory Committee also concurred with the request for 52 general temporary assistance positions for integrated support services. It expected the temporary nature of the positions to be respected and therefore for them to be terminated when the period covered by the 2008/09 budget drew to a close. Any new requirements should be fully justified in future budget proposals.

18. She also drew attention to the Advisory Committee's additional observations on the Mission's efforts to improve inventory management, on the monitoring of acquisitions and the consumption of fuel, on the transition from disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to community violence reduction and on the disaster recovery and business continuity centre located within the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

19. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (A/62/781/Add.7), she said that the Advisory Committee had noted that the projected 6.6 per cent overexpenditure for the current period and the 15.3 per cent increase in resources requested for the maintenance of the Force in 2008/09 as compared to 2007/08 had been caused by higher costs, the appreciation of the Syrian pound against the United States dollar, revised salary scales for national staff, the payment of mission subsistence allowance to staff officers and one-time expenditure related to the volatile security situation in the region.

20. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposed establishment of a P-5 post of Chief of Integrated Support Services, currently filled by a military staff officer on rotation, as well as approval of the conversion of a temporary P-3 position of cartographer and a temporary national General Service administrative assistant for the Geographic Information System mapping project. It also made observations on the efforts of the Force to reduce vehicle accidents, coordinate its training programmes with those of other missions in the region, apply proper procedures for the storage and management of its rations and improve procurement practices.

21. Introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/62/781/Add.3), she said that the Advisory Committee had not included in that report recommendations regarding the request for an additional appropriation and assessment for the current period, on an exceptional basis, contained in the note by the Secretary-General on the financing arrangements for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/62/817), having received that note after completing its consideration of the Mission's administrative and budgetary affairs.

22. Noting that the projected additional requirements for 2007/08 would be offset by a projected unutilized balance of $2,116,300 resulting mainly from a higher than expected vacancy rate for international staff, the Advisory Committee found that, in the light of the Mission's chronically precarious financial situation, it had no choice but to concur with the request of the Secretary-General. However, it took the view that the reasons offered for the increased requirements were clear evidence of a lack of sound budget planning and management rather than of exceptional circumstances.

23. While the performance report for 2006/07 indicated a budget implementation rate of 97.8 per cent, the Advisory Committee noted significant variances between approved and actual expenditure. While it recommended acceptance of the proposed budget for 2008/09, which was essentially a maintenance budget, it also recommended a minor reduction in resources for training to be conducted by consultants.

24. Lastly, the Advisory Committee deeply regretted the damage caused to the Lajuad archaeological sites, allegedly by the Mission's military or police personnel. As the actions of a few had a wide adverse impact not only on the Mission but on the United Nations, the

Advisory Committee trusted that appropriate action would be taken against those found responsible once the investigation had been completed. It was pleased at the involvement of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as the agency responsible for the protection and restoration of such sites, and hoped that that involvement would continue.

25. **Mr. Poulin** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand on agenda item 150, said that, while the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) had made progress in key areas, the recent unrest caused by the food prices crisis clearly illustrated the precariousness of the situation on the ground and the need for a robust United Nations presence in the area. Given that MINUSTAH personnel had been the target of violence, even resulting in death, increased confidence-building measures were needed to ensure that the benefits of the Mission's presence were fully appreciated by the population. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the appointment of Mr. Hédi Annabi as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and trusted that he would continue to strengthen the integration of the Mission with the United Nations Country Team and use his good offices in support of the activities of the United Nations funds and programmes.

26. The three delegations commended the Secretary-General for his prudent and accurate budget proposals for the preceding periods, which should serve as an example for other peacekeeping operations, and welcomed the fact that the Mission's remaining cash balance as at 31 March 2007 had been sufficient. Nevertheless, Member States must continue to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, to ensure that troop-contributing countries were promptly reimbursed. While endorsing the proposed budget for MINUSTAH for 2008/09 and most of the Advisory Committee conclusions and recommendations the delegations would like further information on the time frame for the deployment of the much-needed patrol vessels.

27. Australia, Canada and New Zealand fully supported the reformulation of the Mission's mandate to focus on a community violence reduction programme rather than on traditional disarmament, demobilization and reintegration strategies and the coordination of the programme's execution with the United Nations Development Programme. Integrated programmes yielded better results and led to increased savings.

28. The abnormally high vacancy rate among national staff undermined the Mission's ability to comply with the training component of its mandate, which was essential to ensure a successful transition to the peacebuilding stage. Every effort must be made to find innovative solutions to the problem and to fill the vacant posts with qualified Haitian candidates.

29. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group on agenda item 150, said that the Group, in its declaration in support of democratic institutions in Haiti, adopted on 14 April 2008, had reaffirmed its backing for restoring democratic institutions, promoting social development and combating poverty in Haiti, and also its confidence that Haiti would continue to advance peacefully towards consolidating political and social stability, creating the basis for economic progress. Likewise, the Group supported the international community's efforts to encourage sustainable development contributing to a climate of security and to overcoming poverty, without resorting to coercive action. The Mission must receive the resources it required to be able to assist in improving civilian and security institutions, promoting good governance, fostering economic development and strengthening coordination among the agencies of the United Nations system, particularly during the current food crisis.

30. The Group welcomed the strategic framework which the Mission had established together with the Government of Haiti and others, in order to connect security and development more closely by reorienting the former traditional focus on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration towards a focus on community violence reduction. Recalling the renewed mandate conferred on the Mission by Security Council resolution 1780 (2007), the Group welcomed the development efforts of the Mission and the reconfiguration of its military and police personnel to take account of the changing internal situation of the country. Also positive were the regional and bilateral initiatives aimed at strengthening the security and welfare of the Haitian people, including the establishment of a Humanitarian Fund to provide assistance and carry out priority social programmes.

31. The Group agreed with the view expressed by the Secretary-General in his most recent report on the

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2008/202) that the assistance provided by the Mission's military and police personnel was essential in helping the Haitian National Police to strengthen security along the country's land and sea borders — a task which would require more specialized equipment — and in helping the Government to implement judicial reform and strengthen institutions and the rule of law.

32. The Group was concerned at the imbalance in the Mission between the number of peacekeeping personnel from Latin America and the Caribbean (approximately 60 per cent) and the number of professional international civilian staff from the same region (approximately 6 per cent). It was also concerned that quick-impact projects, which it strongly supported, were destined to suffer a 40-per-cent reduction in resources in the proposed budget for 2008/09. That was alarming in the light of the Security Council mandate for such projects and of the Secretary-General's recognition that they had direct benefits in terms of maintaining the population's trust in the Mission.

33. The Group acknowledged the important role of the 2x9 mechanism of Latin American troop-contributing countries, which enabled those countries to plan their strategies for cooperation with Haiti, avoiding duplication and optimizing the use of resources on the ground. It also stressed the role played in the Mission's work by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.

34. **Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura** (Brazil), speaking on agenda item 150, said that the recent protests over the rising cost of food in Haiti illustrated that, despite the progress made since 2004, the situation on the ground remained fragile. It was vital that the international community increase its support for and cooperation with Haiti, so that the country could embark on the path of stability, reconstruction and development. Accordingly, the resources provided to MINUSTAH must be commensurate with its mandate and enable it to respond rapidly to changing circumstances.

35. By its resolution 1780 (2007), the Security Council had further expanded the Mission's mandate to include improvement of border security and had requested MINUSTAH to continue to implement quick-impact projects. His delegation therefore noted with concern that the cost estimates for quick-impact projects for the period 2008/09 had decreased by 40 per cent in comparison with the preceding period. In light of the recent tragic events in Haiti and given the specific provisions of the aforementioned resolution, Brazil favoured a significant increase in the budgetary resources earmarked for such projects in the proposed budget for 2008/09.

36. The Mission's efforts to focus on a comprehensive community violence reduction programme, tailored to conditions on the ground, rather than on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration were welcome, and his delegation therefore endorsed the proposed resource requirements relating to that programme. As the estimated unencumbered balance for 2007/08 amounted to only $4,400, it was clear that any reduction in the proposed resource requirements for the forthcoming period might have an adverse effect on mandate implementation. Bearing in mind the recent expansion of the Mission's mandate, his delegation would carefully consider the reductions proposed by the Advisory Committee.

37. Peacekeeping budgets should reflect the three pillars of the Organization's work, namely peace and security, development and human rights. Unfortunately, however, the development pillar was not receiving the attention it deserved. Peace could be achieved only by dealing simultaneously with national reconciliation, security and development with social justice. There could be no simple military solution to present-day crises.

38. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina), speaking on agenda item 150, endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Brazil and stressed that the General Assembly must provide MINUSTAH with the resources necessary to implement its mandate. In that connection, he welcomed the projected high budget implementation rate for 2007/08, which illustrated that the budget for that period had been realistic and tailored to the situation on the ground.

39. By its resolution 1780 (2007), the Security Council had reformulated the Mission's mandate to focus on providing support for Government-led border management initiatives and institution-building. The General Assembly should approve the related resource requests. In particular, his delegation was in favour of establishing all the posts requested in the proposed budget, including the reclassification from P-5 to D-1 of a post in the Office of the Deputy Special

Representative of the Secretary-General and the redeployment of a P-5 post to the Office of the Principal Deputy Special Representative.

40. With regard to air operations, it would be useful to know more about the Mission's action to improve firefighting capacity and to ensure the availability of appropriate meteorological information. Quick-impact projects had proven their effectiveness on the ground and had helped MINUSTAH consolidate its presence in the region. It was therefore troubling to note that the resources requested for such projects for the forthcoming period had decreased significantly.

41. The United Nations must discuss responsibly how peacekeeping operations could continue to function in unforeseen circumstances which threatened stability or undermined progress already made. In that connection, MINUSTAH should play a more active role in efforts to resolve the crisis caused by rising food prices in Haiti.

42. His delegation wished to recognize the input of the coordination forums for donors and troop-contributing countries, which were providing strategy guidance and support for Haitian Government efforts to achieve sustainable development, stability and political dialogue. The 2x9 mechanism, which brought together the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Latin American troop-contributing countries, had added particular value to those endeavours and illustrated the commitment of those countries to security and development in Haiti.

43. **Mr. Quezada** (Chile), speaking on agenda item 150, endorsed the remarks made by the previous speakers and reaffirmed his delegation's support for democratic institutionalization in Haiti and its agreement with the proposed MINUSTAH budget for 2008/09. However, Latin American and Caribbean countries, which had contributed 57.5 per cent of the military personnel deployed to Haiti, were significantly underrepresented among international civilian personnel, only 6 per cent of whom were nationals of those States. That serious imbalance must be rectified and steps should also be taken to achieve an appropriate gender balance among the Mission's staff.

44. Quick-impact projects were of direct benefit to the local population and served as an important confidence-building measure. His delegation was therefore concerned about the significant drop in the resources allocated to such projects, particularly since the Secretary-General's report did not provide any substantive justification for the reduction and given that relevant Security Council resolutions dating from 2006 and 2007 had called for their implementation.

45. Lastly, while he welcomed the reformulation of the Mission's mandate pursuant to Security Council resolution 1780 (2007), he pointed out that rising food prices had had a significant impact on the situation on the ground. Recent events in Haiti should lead the international community to reflect further on that issue.

46. **Mr. Sadouk** (Morocco), speaking on agenda item 156, expressed surprise that the Secretary-General's reports on the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) made no mention of the acts of vandalism at the Lajuad archaeological sites and endorsed the remarks made in that connection by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. The Secretariat, in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, should take the measures necessary to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

47. **Mr. Déjoie** (Haiti), speaking on agenda item 150, paid tribute to the Nigerian peacekeeper who had been killed on 12 April 2008. It was to be hoped that his ultimate sacrifice would galvanize the international community and MINUSTAH and serve as a reminder that much remained to be done to strengthen democracy, security, development and universal justice in Haiti.

48. His delegation thanked the international community for its considerable assistance. However, the events of 7 and 8 April 2008 had illustrated the precariousness of the situation on the ground. While MINUSTAH was a peacekeeping operation and not a development agency, there could be no peace without development. The Mission should therefore pursue its cooperation with the various development stakeholders in the field, listen more attentively to the needs of the local population and ensure improved coordination with other agencies.

49. The Mission must be provided with the resources it needed to implement its expanded mandate successfully. The 40-per-cent drop in the proposed resource requirements for quick-impact projects was therefore cause for concern. Adequate funding for such projects was vital to achieve better integration of the Mission in its new deployment areas.

50. Lastly, with regard to the recruitment of national staff, the unusually high vacancy rates reported by the Secretary-General in successive years were troubling. The Mission should step up its efforts to issue vacancy announcements and make use of all available resources on the ground, because there were qualified Haitians who would be willing to take up employment with the Mission if the conditions and salaries were satisfactory. In that connection, it might be desirable to review the recruitment requirements.

Other matters

51. **Ms. Samayoa-Recari** (Guatemala) enquired as to the progress made by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the report of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

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Summary record of the 41st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 15 May 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 143: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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08-34021 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 143: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (A/62/649, A/62/718 and Corr.1, A/62/779 and A/62/781/Add.9)

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/62/737, A/62/755 and A/62/781/Add.8)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/649), said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/270, had appropriated funding of $44,831,400 and that expenditure had been $47,347,900, resulting in an overexpenditure of $2,516,500, representing a 5.6 per cent increase compared to the approved budget. The main causes of the variance were increased military contingent requirements, owing to the rotation of one contingent by commercial means rather than by aircraft provided by a troop-contributing country, and increased national staff requirements, owing to two consecutive revisions of the national staff salary scale. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate and assess an additional $2,516,500, representing the overexpenditure, for the maintenance of the Force during the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and to decide how to treat other income for the period ended 30 June 2007 amounting to $1,212,700.

2. Introducing the note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/62/779), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/280, had appropriated $46,587,400 for the maintenance of the Force. Additional requirements of $3,646,500 represented an increase of 7.8 per cent. The main causes of the variance were increased requirements for the staff officers of military contingents and for United Nations police officers, owing to changes in support arrangements.

3. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $3,646,500 to maintain the Force from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, including $1,166,700 of the net appropriation to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus, in addition to the $46,587,400 already appropriated under resolution 61/280, and to assess the total amount of $2,479,800, representing the balance of the additional appropriation, comprising $2,376,475 for the period from 1 July 2007 to 15 June 2008 and $103,325 for the period from 15 to 30 June 2008, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNFICYP.

4. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/718 and Corr.1), which represented a proposed total of $54,943,000, he said that the sum concerned was $8,355,600, or 17.9 per cent, higher than the resources approved for 2007/08. The main causes of the variance were the increased cost of commercial aircraft charter services for the rotation of troops, the increased cost of goods and services procured locally owing to the appreciation of the Cyprus pound against the United States dollar and increased requirements for United Nations police owing to the full provision of mission subsistence allowance.

5. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $54,943,000 to maintain the Force from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, including $24,041,766 to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus ($17,541,766) and the Government of Greece ($6.5 million), and to assess $30,901,234 at a monthly rate of $2,575,102 should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of UNFICYP.

6. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/737), he said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/121 B, had appropriated funding of $1,091,242,800 and that expenditure had been $1,085,127,900, leaving an unencumbered balance of $6,114,900, representing an implementation rate of 99.4 per cent. The main causes of the variance were lower military contingent costs, owing to reduced requirements for the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries for contingent-owned equipment, reduced requirements for fresh rations and fewer than planned rotations of troops, and reduced air transportation requirements. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $6,114,900, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $55,462,400.

7. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for MONUC for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/755), the

submission of which had been delayed by the additional technical and substantive consultations required in connection with arrangements for local elections, he said that the proposed sum of $1,191,372,300 was $78,632,800, or 7.1 per cent, higher than the resources approved for 2007/08. The main causes of the variance were increased air transportation requirements, owing to the deployment of six additional fixed-wing aircraft and 29 additional rotary-wing aircraft in support of local elections; increased national staff requirements, owing to the proposed establishment of 568 additional national posts, comprising 22 National Officers and 546 national General Service staff; and increased requirements for United Nations Volunteers and general temporary assistance, owing to the temporary deployment of additional personnel in support of local elections.

8. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $1,191,372,300 to maintain the Mission from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009; to assess $595,686,150 for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2008; and to assess $595,686,150 for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2009 at a monthly rate of $99,281,025, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

9. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee report on the financing of UNFICYP (A/62/781/Add.9), said that, for the current period, the Secretary-General projected an overexpenditure of $3,646,700, mainly resulting from revised support arrangements for military staff officers and United Nations police officers; a revised salary scale in effect for national staff as of 1 January 2008; increased utility and maintenance costs caused by exchange rate fluctuations; and increased ground transportation and fuel costs. In his note on the financing arrangements for UNFICYP for 2007/08 (A/62/779), the Secretary-General indicated that the budget of UNFICYP was unable to absorb the additional requirements, which represented 7.8 per cent of its approved budget for the period and therefore requested the General Assembly to appropriate $3,646,500 on an exceptional basis. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's request.

10. Turning to the proposed budget for UNFICYP for 2008/09, she said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals, except for those relating to the establishment of a Senior Legal Adviser post (P-5) and the upward reclassification of three posts; while it agreed that the Force should have access to legal advice it believed that the Senior Legal Adviser's envisaged functions could be performed adequately at the P-4 level. As the mandate of the Force had remained stable since its inception in 1964, the Advisory Committee did not consider the upward reclassifications to be required at the present time.

11. Turning to the Advisory Committee report on the financing of MONUC (A/62/781/Add.8), she said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the Mission's proposed budget for 2008/09 should be reduced by $3,695,900. One of the major influences on the budget proposal was the electoral support which MONUC was due to provide pursuant to Security Council resolution 1797 (2008). The associated costs of that support were estimated at $88,269,800. The Advisory Committee noted that estimates were predicated on the assumption that the elections would be held in the second half of 2008 and that a delay would have an impact on requirements. The Advisory Committee expected developments in that regard to be monitored and the expenditure of such resources to be closely aligned with the objective of carrying out the elections.

12. Further factors affecting the estimates included the priority placed by the Mission, in accordance with resolution 1794 (2007), on addressing the security challenges posed by armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Mission's decision to consolidate its three regional offices into two, in order to strengthen decentralization in that part of the country. The Advisory Committee had requested the Secretariat to monitor the impact of the restructuring on the Mission's implementation of its mandate and to report on that matter, and on any resulting economies and efficiencies, in the next budget submission for MONUC.

13. The Advisory Committee recommended approval both of the temporary positions to support the local elections and of the posts requested for the regularization of the positions of individual contractors and casual daily workers performing skilled functions, largely in the Security and Safety Section and

Integrated Support Services; such posts and positions accounted for the bulk of the additional 1,019 posts and positions requested for 2008/09. The Advisory Committee also noted that the proposed electoral assistance positions would contribute to national capacity-building.

14. With regard to the proposed Strategic Planning Cell with responsibilities including the development of benchmarks and an indicative timeline for the gradual drawdown of MONUC, the Advisory Committee, acknowledging that the Mission should enhance coordination with the United Nations Country Team during the transitional phase, did not object to designating an entity in the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for that function.

15. In view of the increased emphasis on security sector reform in the Mission's new post-election mandate, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the establishment and proposed staffing of the new Security Sector Reform Unit. Given the importance of supporting the analytical capabilities of MONUC, the Advisory Committee also recommended approval of the proposed staffing changes for both the Joint Operations Centre and the Joint Mission Analysis Cell.

16. In view of the existing staffing situation in the Office of the Special Representative, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the P-4 post requested for an Administrative Officer, but not the P-3 post requested. Similarly, taking into account the existing staffing situation in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative (Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator), the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the position of Administrative Assistant (United Nations Volunteer) but not the post of Coordination Assistant (Field Service).

17. With regard to the request for three temporary positions for Conduct and Discipline Officers in Bunia, Goma and Bukavu, the Advisory Committee noted that the Conduct and Discipline Team currently consisted of 13 staff. In the Advisory Committee's view, it was logical to move some conduct and discipline personnel to the east of the country, together with the staff and contingent personnel being redeployed. Accordingly, it recommended that some existing staff of the Conduct and Discipline Team be redeployed to Bunia, Goma and Bukavu. Should a need for additional conduct and discipline staff subsequently arise, posts should be requested and fully justified in the next budget submission.

18. Lastly, the Secretary-General proposed an increase of some 235 per cent for training-related travel. Requirements for training, including travel, had increased from an estimated $1,613,100 for 5,373 staff and military and police personnel in 2007/08 to $4,359,800 for 9,446 personnel in 2008/09. In the absence of adequate justification for such large increases, the Advisory Committee recommended, on the basis of the current level of expenditure, that the estimates be reduced to $673,700 for training and $640,400 for training-related travel.

19. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the African Group on agenda item 144, acknowledged the contribution of MONUC to the peace and security of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and therefore to the stability of the entire Great Lakes region. Like all other peacekeeping missions, MONUC should receive sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate.

20. Recalling that the Security Council, by its resolution 1797 (2008), had authorized MONUC to assist the Congolese authorities in the organization, preparation and conduct of local elections, the Group was pleased to note that the proposed budget of the Mission for 2008/09 called for the provision of funds for logistical and technical support to the Government and electoral authorities. It noted that most of the net increase in civilian positions requested in the proposed budget related to that function, though some were temporary posts.

21. Concerned at the high projected vacancy rate for international staff and United Nations police, and noting that although the Mission recruited an average of 30 new staff per month, staff turnover was high, with 25 per month leaving, the Group believed that if the current situation continued, the Mission would be less effective and would incur recurring training costs. It regretted that the Committee, at the first part of its resumed session, had not taken the opportunity to address the proposed harmonization of conditions of service, which might have helped to address the problem, and agreed with the Advisory Committee that a full analysis of the underlying causes of the high staff turnover should be made.

22. The Group noted the adjustments to the Mission's structure proposed by the Secretary-General in order to improve efficiency, and the cost savings being pursued, but cautioned that such measures should not be to the detriment of the work of the Mission. As a detailed review and assessment of quick-impact projects had determined the continued need for them, the Group emphasized the importance of the projects in the fields identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the Mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/755), which included improving local medical educational and sanitation infrastructure, developing short-term employment-generating projects in support of peacebuilding and political stability, the rule of law and human rights, the protection of and support to vulnerable groups and improving civil-military cooperation.

23. **Mr. Tawana** (South Africa), speaking on agenda item 144, said that his delegation valued the efforts of all peacekeeping personnel. The Mission played a critical role in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in addressing the crisis in the Kivus and in protecting the civilian population. However, the heavy concentration of its personnel in the east of the country should not lead to security vacuums or expose the Mission to weakness in other areas of potential or actual high tension.

24. In the context of the electoral assistance which the Security Council, by its resolution 1797 (2008), had authorized MONUC to provide to the Congolese authorities, his delegation welcomed the Mission's work to rebuild democratic institutions, with the involvement of other African States.

25. Recalling the unprecedented scale of the Organization's assistance for previous elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it also welcomed the provision made in the proposed Mission budget for assistance with further elections in the future as an investment in the long-term peace and stability of the country and the region. The resource requirements proposed, including the conversion of posts in connection with electoral assistance, should be supported without reservation. Lastly, his delegation hoped that the reduction of the proposed Mission budget for 2008/09 by $3,695,900 recommended by the Advisory Committee would not affect the Mission's ability to fulfil its large mandate.

26. **Mr. Lukwiya** (Uganda), speaking on agenda item 144, said that, as peacekeeping operations contributed significantly to maintaining international peace and security, adequate funding was essential to ensuring that they could fulfil their mandates. Most of the resources requested by the Secretary-General in the proposed budget for MONUC were to be devoted to providing a response to Security Council resolutions 1794 (2007) and 1797 (2008), and therefore to addressing security challenges posed by armed groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and to assisting the Congolese authorities with local elections. Pacification and continued stability in the country, particularly its eastern frontier, was a requirement for the stability of the entire Great Lakes region. Electoral assistance, meanwhile, would help to strengthen the country's democratic institutions.

27. His delegation welcomed the cost-saving proposal of making more use of the Entebbe Support Base, to avoid having to send equipment for inspection, maintenance and repair to Kinshasa, and to provide information technology and communications support and freight forwarding services to missions in the region, including the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). Developing the concept of a regional support base at Entebbe would bring about more gains in efficiency for the Organization.

28. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina), speaking on agenda items 143 and 144, said that his delegation supported without reservation the mandate of UNFICYP and its role in bringing peace, security and normalization. As Argentina was a major contributor of troops to the Force, his delegation was concerned at the long delays in reimbursement, and urged timely payment of the sums due.

29. Other concerns which his delegation would explore further in the informal consultations included the cost difference between using commercial air services and using charter air services to rotate contingents, and the progress made in updating accommodation for troops in sectors 1 and 2.

30. His delegation shared the views of others regarding MONUC, and wished to express its support for the Mission's electoral assistance role and its concern over high vacancy rates.

31. **Mr. Sena** (Brazil), speaking on agenda items 143 and 144, said that his delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representative of Argentina regarding delays in reimbursement of countries contributing troops to UNFICYP and regarding the conditions of service of those troops.

32. The Committee should ensure that MONUC received the funding it needed to fulfil its expanded mandate, particularly the important role of helping the Government to prepare and conduct local elections and to implement quick-impact projects, with a view to making progress towards national recovery, improving communications, generating short-term employment and consolidating the rule of law.

33. Suitable funding was also required for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, focusing on former combatants and children associated with armed groups. Lastly, his delegation wished to acknowledge the role of many African countries in helping to rebuild democratic institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

34. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt), speaking on agenda items 143 and 144, said that his delegation agreed with the views expressed by the representatives of Argentina and Brazil regarding timely reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, a problem which arose in many peacekeeping missions, not just UNFICYP, and which must be resolved.

35. Reaffirming its continued support for MONUC, his delegation said that it would work with the Committee to ensure that that Mission received the resources it needed to operate effectively and help to bring peace and security to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/62/SR.42

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 42nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 20 May 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 130: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (*continued*)

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08-34685 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 130: Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/62/539/Add.1)

1. **The Chairman**, recalling that the Controller had briefed the Committee on the current financial situation at its 39th meeting, held on 9 May 2008, said that his statement had been issued as a report of the Secretary-General under the symbol A/62/539/Add.1.

2. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said that, since 7 May 2008, in addition to the 25 Member States listed in the report, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Colombia, Denmark, Ireland and Israel had paid their due and payable assessments in full. Also since that date, Bosnia and Herzegovina had paid in full its assessed contributions to the capital master plan and the international criminal tribunals; the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Ghana had paid in full their assessed contributions to the capital master plan; Georgia had paid in full its assessed contributions to peacekeeping operations; Jamaica and Yemen had paid in full their assessed contributions to the regular budget and Nepal had paid in full its assessed contributions to the regular budget and the capital master plan.

3. **Mr. Thomas** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, emphasized that the payment of assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions was an obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and a prerequisite for the predictability of financial resources and the implementation of all legislative mandates.

4. The Group regretted the weak financial situation of the Organization. Once again, there had been no major improvement in the payment of assessed contributions and, owing to a large outstanding payment from one Member State, the Organization continued to borrow from reserve accounts and the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions. That systemic problem must be permanently resolved.

5. While the Group understood that procedural difficulties could briefly delay the payment of peacekeeping assessments, Member States must take seriously the negative implications of persistent non-payment. The Group opposed cross-borrowing from the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations; cash surpluses should be used to meet outstanding liabilities, such as payment of the $597 million in arrears for troops and contingent-owned equipment, or returned to individual Member States. Most troop-contributing countries were developing States and could not maintain their troops or equipment on their own indefinitely. The Group therefore hoped that all major contributors would pay their assessments in full, on time and without conditions.

6. The Group welcomed the improvement in the financial situation of the international criminal tribunals and was pleased that 181 countries had paid their assessed contributions to the capital master plan. It urged the Secretary-General to ensure full and effective implementation of past and future resolutions on the capital master plan. Lastly, it hoped that Member States with unpaid assessments would settle their accounts as soon as possible, particularly if their capacity to pay was not in question.

7. **Ms. Bizilj** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia and Ukraine, said that the Controller's briefing had clearly shown the willingness of Member States to fulfil their responsibility for the Organization's financial well-being. All Member States should pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

8. There was cause for concern despite some signs of improvement in the Organization's financial situation. The position of the regular budget was no better than in 2006: 52 Member States owed a total of $428 million, 95 per cent of which was owed by two of them. Although unpaid assessments for peacekeeping operations had decreased substantially, from 54.8 per cent in 2006 to 39.2 per cent in 2007, approximately $2.3 billion remained outstanding. All Member States must pay their assessed contributions to enable the effective implementation of peacekeeping operations and the timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries. Any funds in the accounts of closed peacekeeping operations should be returned to Member States without delay.

9. The financial situation of the international criminal tribunals was improving. The European Union was pleased that, to date, 67 Member States had made payments amounting to $198 million. The Fifth Committee had put considerable time and effort into

reaching a decision on the capital master plan. Member States were urged to pay their assessments for the plan in full and on time to ensure the prompt implementation of that important project. The European Union requested all Member States to take their obligations to the Organization seriously. At the same time, it expected the Secretariat to use the resources efficiently and transparently.

10. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the financial health of the United Nations was crucial to the fulfilment of its mandates. The Organization's financial situation had improved slightly in 2007, mainly because a larger number of States had paid their contributions to the regular budget, the international criminal tribunals and the peacekeeping operations.

11. The Group noted that peacekeeping operations had increased in number, size and cost and that such operations were sometimes unpredictable. It was nevertheless concerned that unpaid assessed contributions had almost doubled compared to 2006. Several Latin American countries continued to experience delays in reimbursements for troops and contingent-owned equipment. All States were urged to fulfil their commitments in a timely manner, to enable the Organization to effectively carry out its core peacekeeping functions.

12. It was encouraging that 90 countries had paid their assessed contributions to the capital master plan to date; Member States should continue to support the project, so that it could be implemented within the established time frame. The Group acknowledged the countries, including a number in Latin America, that had paid all their assessments in full. In some cases, domestic budget problems and urgent social needs, including poverty alleviation and humanitarian emergencies, had led to delayed payment. In other cases, States had made considerable sacrifices in order to make payments on time. It recalled the obligation of all Member States to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

13. **Mr. Taula** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that it was unacceptable that a number of Member States regularly failed to meet their obligation to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. With the regular and peacekeeping budgets at record levels, the Organization must seek ways to eliminate waste and duplication, redeploy resources and streamline its administration.

14. While it was understandably difficult for Governments to fulfil all their financial obligations, it was essential to break the cycle of underpayment and non-payment of assessments. Failure to do so would undermine the implementation of mandates and penalize both the States that had paid in full and on time and the troop-contributing countries that were awaiting reimbursement.

15. **Mr. Hoe** Yeen Teck (Singapore) said that, while arrears to the regular budget had decreased slightly, the amount owed to the peacekeeping budget had ballooned from $1.9 billion at the end of 2006 to $2.7 billion at the end of 2007. Unpaid assessments to the international criminal tribunals and the capital master plan had also increased considerably. His delegation had repeatedly stressed that the Organization's financial difficulties were avoidable. While some countries faced genuine difficulties in paying their assessments, the real issue was the late payment and non-payment by major contributors. That had led the Secretariat to search for "innovative" solutions, such as the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts and the withholding of funds owed to Member States from closed peacekeeping operations. The solution was simple: Member States should comply with their obligations under the Charter and pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

16. Member States had every right to demand that the Secretariat use resources efficiently and effectively. However, the practice of withholding contributions in the name of addressing efficiencies was not a suitable solution. Member States must ask themselves whether it was advisable to have a United Nations that was effective or one which was hobbled by self-inflicted financial weakness.

17. **Mr. Kim** Bong-hyun (Republic of Korea) welcomed the improvement in the financial situation of the Organization in 2008. Indeed, the number of Member States that had paid their assessments to the regular budget in full had been higher, and unpaid assessed contributions lower, than at the same time the previous year, while the amount outstanding for peacekeeping operations had been less than at the end of 2007.

18. If the Organization's financial capability were to be strengthened successfully, Member States and the Secretariat must work together. The budget process should be used to build trust among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat. Particular attention should be paid to the issue of mutual accountability, especially in the light of the rapidly increasing budget. There were no recent instances of delayed payment by a Member State severely impairing the functioning of the United Nations; yet Member States were asked to provide resources in a more timely manner. The Secretariat needed to understand that Member States must consider the needs of their domestic audience, which expected budget appropriation to be systematic and sustainable in the long term. If taxpayers were confident that the Organization's budgets were well planned and efficiently implemented, they would be more willing to support timely payment of contributions.

19. His delegation regretted that, as noted in the report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/5 (Vol. II)), it would appear that Member States had been overassessed for peacekeeping missions and that, in his report on associated costs related to the capital master plan (A/62/799), the Secretary-General had requested additional financing, even though the General Assembly had requested him to make every effort to absorb such costs within the approved budget of the capital master plan. He urged the Secretariat to redouble its efforts to prevent overassessment, by adopting measures to ensure more accurate planning, and to reduce the budgetary burden on Member States, by accommodating additional financing requirements within the capital master plan's approved budget, to the extent possible.

20. **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) said that delegations had grown accustomed to receiving information illustrating the fragile financial health of the Organization. His delegation found little reason to be complacent, since the slight improvement reported was, once again, relative. The Organization's financial position was so fragile that it had no option but to rely heavily on the payment of unpaid assessments. As a Member State that had paid its assessed contributions on time and in full, Bangladesh was unhappy that the situation continued to be so erratic.

21. It was a matter of concern that unpaid assessed contributions to the regular budget had stood at $428 million at 31 December 2007, $67 million more than in 2006. Although the situation of the international criminal tribunals and the capital master plan had improved slightly since the previous year, it was not encouraging to see outstanding assessments of $34 million for the tribunals (as at 31 December 2007) and $150 million for the plan (as at 7 May 2008). While the peacekeeping budget arrears of $2.3 billion as at 7 May 2008 represented a reduction, the amount owed for troops and formed police units and contingent-owned equipment, which stood at $597 million as at 7 May 2008, was projected to reach $728 million by the end of 2008. There was a direct link between sufficient funding for peacekeeping operations and the Organization's ability to resolve conflicts and maintain peace and security around the world. Countries which, despite the many constraints facing them, contributed personnel and equipment should not be penalized for their commitment to the Organization's ideals.

22. His delegation continued to have reservations about the unhealthy practice of cross-borrowing, since it contributed to the delayed reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries. The Committee's consideration of closed peacekeeping operations and of the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts might remain inconclusive until the problem of unpaid contributions was addressed once and for all, in full compliance with Member States' obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

23. **Mr. Spirin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was pleased to note that, in the year to 7 May 2008, more Member States had paid their assessed contributions, that arrears to the regular budget had fallen by $72 million and that arrears to the peacekeeping budget had fallen by $425 million. However, it was concerned that the bulk of the unpaid obligations continued to be owed by a small group of Member States and that a number of Member States still had not made any payments to finance the capital master plan. It welcomed the decrease in amounts owed to troop and equipment providers but noted that the problem of the Organization's continued indebtedness in that respect was far from being resolved. Naturally the Member States, who bore a growing financial burden, were entitled to expect that the Secretariat would carry out rational financial planning and make realistic estimates of the human and

material resources required to fulfil approved mandates. His delegation's position on how to improve the Organization's financial stability had not changed: Member States must pay their assessed contributions, in full, on time and without conditions.

24. **Mr. Alouan Kanafani** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, if the United Nations was likened to a Government, Member States' contributions could be likened to the taxes that citizens must pay to enable it to function properly and achieve its aims. Two obligations arose from Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter: Member States must agree on how to apportion the expenses of the Organization and must then meet their financial obligations in full, on time and without conditions.

25. The Secretariat was responsible for fulfilling the mandates given to it by Member States and must find mechanisms to guarantee the Organization's financial solidity. Many countries were unable to fulfil their obligations on time, either because of circumstances beyond their control or because they were developing countries with more pressing problems to address. Even so, many countries in such circumstances did manage to meet their payments.

26. However, some countries had enviable economic power but did not fulfil their obligations. Year after year, the major contributor had accounted for a very high percentage of the total amount owed to the Organization. That State's practice of delaying payments reflected not an inability to pay, but a desire to push through proposals that were in its interest. In concluding, he called on those States that had not yet done so to fulfil their obligations so that the Organization could function properly.

27. **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba) said that, despite the improvement described by the Controller, the Organization's financial situation remained complicated. Heavy dependence on the receipt of contributions from a small group of countries caused uncertainty and unpredictability. All Member States must fulfil their financial obligations to the Organization. At the same time, account should be taken of the special situation of those States that, for reasons beyond their control, were unable to do so.

28. The data provided by the Controller showed that the Organization's major contributor continued to be its largest debtor. As at 7 May 2008, it had accounted for 68.3 per cent of the arrears in payments to the regular budget, an increase of almost 10 per cent compared to the same time the previous year. The situation was further exacerbated by the fact that payments received were also lower than they had been one year earlier. The situation with regard to the international criminal tribunals and peacekeeping operations was no more encouraging. Most worryingly of all, however, the host country of United Nations Headquarters — the country that stood to benefit most from the capital master plan — accounted for 90.7 per cent of the arrears in payments to that plan. That fact was yet another sign of the host country's lack of commitment to the Organization.

29. Cuba, on the other hand, was genuinely committed to multilateralism and to the Organization, as demonstrated by the fact that, despite the unfavourable economic situation and financial constraints caused by the strengthening of the 40-year-old United States embargo on the country, it had paid in full all its assessments. As Cuba was prevented from using the United States dollar for international transactions, including the payment of contributions to international organizations, it was constantly exposed to currency fluctuations and its capacity to pay suffered. Moreover, it was forced to pay United Nations assessments through a third country.

30. The Bush administration continued to show contempt for the United Nations, an Organization that it constantly undermined not only by failing to pay its contributions, but also by limiting the ability of other countries to pay theirs. By maintaining such an attitude, it also showed contempt for the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, the United States Government's obligation not to hinder the operation of the Organization and the principle of non-discrimination and equality of States' rights. Year after year, the international community called on the United States to end its embargo against Cuba; that call must be heeded.

31. Despite the apparent improvement in the financial situation as compared to 2007, a group of developing-country troop contributors were not being reimbursed on time. That situation must be addressed and the countries concerned reimbursed for the services they provided. Without corrective measures, the situation would not change.

32. His delegation was disappointed at the late submission of the report of the Secretary-General on

improving the financial situation of the United Nations (A/62/539/Add.1), as it deserved to be debated thoroughly and properly reflected in a draft resolution. Cuba wished to reiterate its willingness to meet its financial obligations in full, on time and without conditions and its belief that compliance with the legal obligation to finance the Organization was one of the many ways in which Member States could demonstrate their political support for the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/62/SR.43

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

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Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 43rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 21 May 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

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08-34882 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (A/62/645, A/62/753, A/62/781/Add.11 and A/62/796)

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (A/62/648, A/62/764 and A/62/781/Add.10)

1. **Mr. Karia** (Peacekeeping Financing Division), speaking as Officer-in-Charge of the Peacekeeping Financing Division and introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for the period from 25 August 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/645), recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/249 B, had appropriated an amount of $184,819,900 for the establishment and maintenance of the Mission. Expenditure for the period had been $146,848,800, leaving an unencumbered balance of $37,971,100, which represented a budget implementation rate of 79.5 per cent.

2. Variances had been due mainly to reduced requirements under facilities and infrastructure and communications, owing to the postponement of the planned deployment of United Nations police officers and formed police units to 65 subdistricts and to the cancellation of the planned acquisition of various items of equipment, respectively. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $37,971,100, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $1,106,900.

3. Introducing the Secretary-General's note on financing arrangements for UNMIT for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/62/796), he recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/249 C, had appropriated a total of $153,159,800 for the maintenance of the Mission. Additional requirements amounting to $16,436,500 represented a 10.7 per cent increase over the initial appropriation.

4. Variances were primarily attributable to additional requirements resulting from the postponement of the planned drawdown of United Nations police personnel, the accelerated recruitment of international staff and the retention of temporary staff and United Nations Volunteers beyond 1 July 2007. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate and assess the amount of $16,436,500 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, in addition to the amount of $160,589,900 already appropriated for the same period under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/249 C.

5. Introducing the Secretary-General's report on the budget for UNMIT for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/753), he said that the proposed total of $173,439,800 represented a 13.2 per cent increase over the budget for the preceding period. That variance was primarily attributable to additional requirements under United Nations police, international and national staff, communications and information technology. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $173,439,800 for the maintenance of UNMIT for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, assess the amount of $114,517,786 at a monthly rate of $14,453,316 for the period from 1 July 2008 to 26 February 2009 and, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission, assess the remaining amount of $58,922,014 at the same monthly rate for the period from 27 February to 30 June 2009.

6. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/648), he recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/276, had appropriated an amount of $714,613,300 for the maintenance of the Mission. Expenditure for the period had been $676,254,800, leaving an unencumbered balance of $38,411,300, which represented a budget implementation rate of 94.6 per cent.

7. Variances had been due mainly to reduced requirements under military contingents as a result of the earlier than anticipated repatriation of military personnel and the Security Council's decision to decrease the authorized military component. In addition, the reconfiguration of the Mission's police component had led to a reduction in the number of authorized United Nations police personnel and a corresponding increase in the formed police unit strength. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $38,411,300, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $46,097,200.

8. Lastly, introducing the Secretary-General's report on the budget for UNMIL for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/764), he said that the

proposed total of $688,383,400 represented a 12.3 per cent decrease over the budget for the preceding period. That variance was primarily attributable to reduced requirements under both military contingents and police personnel. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $603,708,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission, assess that amount at a monthly rate of $50,309,000.

9. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the performance report and proposed budget for UNMIT (A/62/781/Add.11), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $597,800 in the proposed budget for UNMIT for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, essentially as a result of the non-approval of five international posts and one United Nations Volunteer position. The Secretary-General had indicated that one of the main reasons for the increase in the proposed resource requirements for UNMIT and for the request for an additional $16.4 million for the current period was the postponement, due to the worsening security situation in Timor-Leste, of the drawdown of United Nations police and formed police units. However, the performance report for the period 2006/07 revealed underexpenditures amounting to 20.5 per cent of the total appropriation for the period. It was clear that the Mission had experienced difficulties in its planning process, some of which were attributable to the volatile nature of the situation on the ground.

10. The Advisory Committee continued to believe that that the Mission's management structure was top-heavy and out of proportion to its size and activities, especially when compared to the structure of other larger and more complex missions. Nevertheless, it was not recommending any changes at the present time in view of the forthcoming submission to the Security Council, by 1 August 2008, of a report of the Secretary-General containing, inter alia, recommendations for possible changes to the Mission's mandate and strength. In the first quarter of 2008, an expert mission had conducted a thorough assessment of the requirements of the national police as well as possible adjustments to UNMIT police skill sets. Accordingly, the Secretary-General should review the management structure of the Mission on the basis of the outcome of the Council's consideration of his forthcoming report and reflect any changes in the proposed budget for 2009/10.

11. The vacancy situation at UNMIT continued to present serious challenges, particularly at the senior managerial and professional levels. The Mission should therefore work closely with Headquarters to improve the situation and report on progress made in the context of the next budget submission.

12. Turning to the Advisory Committee's report on the performance report and proposed budget for UNMIL (A/62/781/Add.10), she said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposals for UNMIL for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. As far as posts were concerned, the Advisory Committee welcomed the Secretary-General's initiatives to phase out the practice of hiring individual contractors for functions of a continuing nature and the conversion of international posts to national posts, which contributed to national capacity-building.

13. While recognizing that the Mission was in the drawdown phase, the Advisory Committee nevertheless saw merit in the implementation of quick-impact projects and therefore recommended approval of the proposed budget of $1 million for such projects for 2008/09. Lastly, with regard to the drawdown and eventual withdrawal of UNMIL from Liberia, the Advisory Committee emphasized the roles and responsibilities of the United Nations country team in progressively taking over functions performed by UNMIL in order to ensure a successful transition from recovery to development.

14. **Ms. Stevens** (Australia), speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand (CANZ), said that the CANZ delegations were committed to assisting the Government and people of Timor-Leste to take primary responsibility for the development of a stable and more prosperous nation. They were heartened by the Government's response to the events of 11 February 2008 and by the lifting of the state of emergency, but wished to stress that the country continued to need the support of the international community to overcome a number of remaining challenges.

15. UNMIT played a crucial role in consolidating democracy in Timor-Leste and furthering the process

of national reconciliation. It was a key partner in efforts to reform and rebuild the country's security sector, efforts designed to establish a culture of respect for human rights and the rule of law and to improve humanitarian conditions. The CANZ delegations hoped that the Mission would intensify its work in that sphere.

16. She welcomed the Secretary-General's prudent approach to the budget proposals for UNMIT for 2008/09 and pointed out that his recommendations concerning the Mission's staffing structure served to validate the current arrangements. The executive policing function provided by UNMIT, as well as its role in supporting the lasting reform of the National Police of Timor-Leste, were ongoing tasks of the Mission and much remained to be done to rebuild national capacity in that area. Accordingly, since the situation in Timor-Leste remained fragile, a cautious approach should be adopted when planning for the Mission's future, particularly with regard to a possible drawdown of personnel, especially police officers; due consideration should also be given to the Mission's capacity-building and humanitarian responsibilities.

17. The CANZ delegations had taken note of the Advisory Committee's comments concerning the level of certain posts within UNMIT but maintained that the staffing structure was commensurate with the Mission's mandate and its responsibilities in the area of cooperation with international partners on the ground. The high vacancy rate at UNMIT remained cause for concern, however, and an update from the Secretariat on the situation would be appreciated. Such staffing difficulties, which were not unique to UNMIT, served to underline the importance of addressing human resources reform across the Organization; the CANZ delegations hoped that significant progress would be made on that front at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

18. Lastly, the unforeseen, continued deployment of United Nations police personnel in Timor-Leste had led to additional requirements for 2007/08. Since $9.5 million of that amount would be accommodated within the appropriation approved by the General Assembly for the 2007/08 period, the Secretary-General was requesting additional resources in the amount of $16.4 million. The CANZ delegations were satisfied with his arguments in that regard.

19. **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, noted that, as a result of significant progress towards the consolidation of peace and security in Liberia, UNMIL had entered the drawdown phase. He welcomed the proposed budget for the Mission for 2008/09, which had been prepared using the results-based framework and reflected the resource requirements for that period. It was imperative that the Fifth Committee provided UNMIL with the resources it needed to implement its mandate and to ensure lasting peace in Liberia.

20. While the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Liberia had described the country as a place of hope, she had also cautioned that such hope was tempered by a tenuous and fragile peace. Thus, the Mission's drawdown strategy must provide for the time and space needed to ensure that Liberia could build up its own police and military forces, thereby progressively assuming full responsibility for national security.

21. The African Group welcomed the proposed conversion of international posts to national posts and commended the Mission's efforts to build national human resources capacity. The Group attached great importance to the implementation of quick-impact projects, which served not only to raise awareness of the Organization's activities in a given country but also, indirectly, to build capacity and enhance know-how among national entrepreneurs. In that connection, it concurred with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 33 of its report on UNMIL. The Advisory Committee's remaining recommendations would be considered further during informal consultations, during which the Group trusted that the Secretariat would offer detailed explanations of the potential impact of any proposed resource reductions.

22. Lastly, to guarantee a successful transition from recovery to development in Liberia, it was essential to define clearly the roles and responsibilities of the United Nations country team as it took over the Mission's functions.

23. **Mr. Tarrisse da Fontoura** (Brazil) expressed his strong support for a sovereign, stable, democratic and developed Timor-Leste, as well as for UNMIT, which must be provided with the resources necessary to implement its mandate. The Mission should be able to support the efforts of the Government and people of

Timor-Leste to consolidate democracy and further national reconciliation through the use of its good offices and the promotion of measures to enhance long-term stability. It should also assist in the design and implementation of poverty eradication and economic growth policies. While he welcomed the fact that the Mission had worked in tandem with various United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, he also reiterated that relevant departments of the Organization, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, should also support and cooperate with UNMIT.

24. In February 2008, the Brazilian Government had expressed great concern over the attempted assassinations of the President and Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, had condemned the use of violence and had exhorted all political and security forces to redouble their efforts to maintain order and to solve political issues by means of understanding and peaceful dialogue. Indeed, the prevailing security situation in the country had necessitated adjustments to the operational requirements of UNMIT, resulting in the postponement of the planned drawdown of United Nations police personnel. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's request for additional appropriations for the period 2007/08 and, in that connection, urged him to take further measures to reduce vacancy rates.

25. While he shared the Advisory Committee's views on quick-impact projects and therefore supported the related recommendation contained in paragraph 33 of its report, he disagreed with the Advisory Committee's assertion that the management structure of UNMIT was top-heavy. UNMIT should not be compared to other peacekeeping missions, since each of them had a unique mandate and operational requirements. It was not appropriate to adopt a template approach to peacekeeping activities. In view of the forthcoming consideration by the Security Council of the report of the Secretary-General on Timor-Leste, he welcomed the fact that the Advisory Committee had not recommended any changes to the Mission's management structure.

26. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Brazil. He expressed concern about the delayed implementation of a number of quick-impact projects in Timor-Leste and called on the Secretariat to provide appropriate explanations.

27. **Mr. Dowana** (Liberia) expressed his gratitude to the international community for its efforts to assist the Government and people of Liberia.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/62/SR.44

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
24 June 2008

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 44th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 30 May 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Torres Lépori (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Argentina)
later: Mr. Ali (Chairman) ..... (Malaysia)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support

Farewell to the Under-Secretary-General for Management

Organization of work

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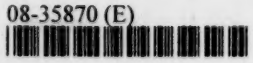
08-35870 (E)



In the absence of Mr. Ali (Malaysia), Mr. Torres Lépori (Argentina), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/62/669, A/62/769 and A/62/781/Add.12)

1. **Ms. Bárcena** (Under-Secretary-General for Management), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/669), recalled that, in its resolution 60/267, the General Assembly had approved an amount of $35,478,700 for the maintenance of UNLB for 2006/07. Expenditures for that period had amounted to $32,929,200, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $2,549,500 and a budget implementation rate of 92.8 per cent.

2. Variances were attributable primarily to the delayed recruitment of international staff and reduced requirements for national staff, as well as to reduced overall operating requirements due to the cancellation of various consultancies, the non-utilization of security service resources and reduced requirements for medical services. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $2,549,500 and other income and adjustments amounting to $2,982,600, and, in connection with the strategic deployment stocks, to take note of the report.

3. Introducing the Secretary-General's report on the budget for UNLB for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/769), which represented a proposed total of $45,827,400, she said that the sum concerned amounted to an increase of $5,447,800, or 13.5 per cent, over the approved budget for the preceding period. That variance was primarily attributable to additional requirements under international and national staff and to increased operating requirements in connection with facilities and infrastructure, communications and information technology. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $45,827,400 for the maintenance of the Logistics Base for the 12-month period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and to prorate that amount among the individual active peacekeeping operation budgets in order to meet the financing requirements of the Base for the period in question.

4. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/62/781/Add.12), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $58,400 in the proposed budget of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 July 2009.

5. In response to a number of proposals for the establishment of stand-alone functions at UNLB, the Advisory Committee had previously requested that a longer-term perspective on the role and future development of the Base should be presented to the General Assembly in the context of the budget proposal for 2009/10. On the basis of that recommendation, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on that issue addressing, inter alia, the basis for placing certain functions at UNLB, taking into account the support provided by the host country. The Advisory Committee underscored the importance of a longer-term perspective in clarifying the concept and functions of UNLB.

6. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of most of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals. Following a security assessment of UNLB by the Department of Safety and Security, which had indicated that there was a vital need to provide adequate safety coverage of the UNLB stocks, the Secretary-General was requesting seven new national posts for security officers and guards. The Advisory Committee noted that the host Government provided perimeter security to UNLB and rapid response to any security incident within the Base. The Secretariat should therefore approach the host Government with a view to finding the most effective way of ensuring the safety and security of UNLB premises, facilities and assets. Pending the outcome of such discussions, the Advisory Committee recommended that the requested seven additional posts should be funded as general temporary assistance.

7. The Secretary-General had proposed establishing a P-4 Medical Officer post in lieu of the current contractual arrangements for three part-time local doctors. However, there was no analysis of whether and/or how the local and regional medical facilities could carry out the tasks foreseen for the Medical Clinic. Therefore, in view of the existing medical

facilities in the vicinity of the Base, the Advisory Committee recommended against the establishment of the post.

8. The conversion of nine contractual positions into eight national General Service positions and one general temporary assistance position had also been proposed. While the Advisory Committee had no objection to the proposed conversions, it noted that in other missions and offices in Europe, services required on a continuing basis had been obtained through contracts with service providers and not through labour agencies. UNLB should explore similar options. The General Assembly might also wish to request the International Civil Service Commission to look into the matter.

9. With regard to training, the Advisory Committee drew attention to the relevant observations and recommendations contained in paragraphs 79 to 83 of its general report on peacekeeping operations (A/62/781). The forthcoming report on peacekeeping training should also provide an analysis of the optimum venues and conditions for training.

10. With regard to the organizational structure of the Base, the Advisory Committee noted that its previous observation concerning the need to clarify the reporting lines for the Tenant Units had not been addressed. It therefore requested the Secretary-General to include the relevant information in the next budget submission for the Base.

11. The Advisory Committee also noted that the evaluation of the pilot project for an off-site recruitment and outreach unit was still pending. The results of that evaluation should be included in the forthcoming report on the longer-term perspective on the role and future development of UNLB.

12. The Advisory Committee welcomed the fact that the Geographical Information System (GIS) Centre had become operational as of 31 December 2007 and that it had provided mapping and support services to a number of peacekeeping operations. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee wished to point out that the Secretary-General had not responded substantively to its requests for an analysis of the GIS Centre and the Engineering Design Unit. That analysis should be submitted in the context of the proposed budget for UNLB for 2009/10.

13. Lastly, the Advisory Committee noted the contributions of the Government of Italy to UNLB. In that connection, it trusted that addendum II to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Italy, which provided for the transfer of three new buildings to the Base, would be signed expeditiously.

14. **Mr. Thomas** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern that the report of the Advisory Committee (A/62/78/Add.12) had still not been translated into all official languages. The Group wished to reiterate its longstanding position that the Fifth Committee should be provided with documents in all official languages, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Nevertheless, owing to time constraints and on an exceptional basis, the Group would not object to the introduction of the report on UNLB or to the wording of relevant informal consultations. Such exceptions must not, however, become the rule.

15. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, noted that her delegation had agreed to the issuance of the Advisory Committee's report (A/62/781/Add.12) in English only in order to avoid further delaying the discussion of important peacekeeping issues. However, the current situation was exceptional and should not set a precedent.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support

16. **The Chairman** welcomed the newly appointed Under-Secretary-General for Field Support and invited her to make a statement.

17. **Ms. Malcorra** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support) thanked the Fifth Committee for its unstinting work in support of United Nations peacekeeping activities. The Department of Field Support had been established in 2007 and bore primary responsibility for ensuring that peacekeeping operations and special political missions received the support necessary for the effective implementation of their mandates. It also served as an accountability mechanism designed to strengthen the management of peacekeeping activities. She was deeply committed to building a strong identity for the Department and would be working closely with other parts of the United Nations system. The only effective way to add value to the Organization's work was to engage with

all its governing bodies, including the Fifth Committee, in order to explain and justify all decisions taken.

Farewell to the Under-Secretary-General for Management

18. **The Chairman**, joined by **Mr. Thomas** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, **Mr. Poulin** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, **Mr. Torres** (Chile), **Mr. Sena** (Brazil), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America), **Ms. Mesquita** (Portugal), **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt), **Mr. Rosales Díaz** (Nicaragua), **Mr. Tawana** (South Africa), **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan) and **Mr. Alouan Kanafani** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), thanked Ms. Bárcena for her outstanding work as Under-Secretary-General for Management and wished her every success in her new post as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

19. **Ms. Bárcena** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) paid tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the members of the Fifth Committee. Ultimately, only by working closely together would the Secretariat and Member States succeed in furthering the Organization's aims. She trusted that her fruitful collaboration with the Fifth Committee would continue when she took up her new post at ECLAC.

Organization of work

20. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that her delegation could not agree to extending the second part of the resumed session in the absence of a clear programme of work. She therefore proposed suspending the meeting so that the Bureau could discuss the appropriate course of action.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 12.40 p.m.

21. *Mr. Ali (Malaysia) took the Chair.*

22. **The Chairman** said that, following consultations with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, the Bureau of the Fifth Committee recommended extending the current resumed session until the end of the following week. The Bureau would meet in due course to discuss the programme of work.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/62/SR.45

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

Distr.: General
22 July 2008

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 45th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 2 June 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

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08-36034 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (A/62/642, A/62/750 and A/62/781/Add.13)

1. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on a point of order on behalf of the European Union, recalled the principle stated by her delegation at the Committee's previous meeting that it was prepared to accept the submission of Advisory Committee reports without prior translation into all of the Organization's official languages only as an exceptional measure which should not be considered a precedent.

2. However, it appeared that the situation was being repeated with the Advisory Committee report on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). While her delegation had no wish to delay introduction of the budgets of peacekeeping operations, it regarded the current circumstances as unacceptable and wished to know why, having received an advance copy in English of the report in question on Thursday of the previous week, the Committee still had no access to versions in the remaining official languages.

3. **The Chairman** said that the secretariat of the Committee had taken note of the concerns expressed.

4. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/642), said that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 60/17 B and 61/247, had appropriated funding of $472,889,300, and that expenditure had been $450,769,600, leaving an unencumbered balance of $22,119,700, representing an implementation rate of 95.3 per cent.

5. The main causes of the variance were lower expenditure on facilities and infrastructure, primarily because of reduced requirements for utilities, maintenance services and aviation fuel storage and distribution equipment, and lower expenditure on air transportation, mainly because of lower than projected flying hours for helicopters. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $22,119,700, as well as other income and adjustments amounting to $16,565,800.

6. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/750), which represented a proposed total of $477,058,000, he said that the sum concerned was $6,201,900, or 1.3 per cent, higher than the resources approved for 2007/08 by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/247 B.

7. The main causes of the variance were higher air transportation requirements arising mainly from the rotation of military contingents and formed police personnel using chartered aircraft, and higher communications requirements arising from public information services, including outreach campaigns, media monitoring and development, and radio programming to support the upcoming elections; disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, and the identification process. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $477,058,000 to maintain the Operation from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009; to assess the amount of $38,472,419 for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008; and to assess the amount of $438,585,581 at a monthly rate of $39,754,833, should the Security Council decide to continue the Operation's mandate.

8. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the report of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, indicated that, exceptionally, the report in question was being made available as an advance, unedited, copy in English only.*

9. The Advisory Committee was recommending that the General Assembly approve the proposed budget, with some minor reductions, and recalled that the resource requirements it contained took account of Security Council resolution 1765 (2007), which made UNOCI responsible for supporting the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement and the elections planned for November 2008. The Advisory Committee welcomed the efficiency gains made by reducing reliance on commercial air carriers for the rotation of United Nations military and police contingents, and encouraged UNOCI to continue its efforts in that regard.

* Subsequently issued as document A/62/781/Add.13.

10. In the interests of developing national capacity, the Advisory Committee recommended that the two P-3 and one Field Service post requested for the Operation's Communication and Public Information Office and the one P-3 and one Field Service post requested for the Engineering Section should instead be filled by national staff. There was room for more use of national personnel in a number of areas.

11. Having noted that the chief of the UNOCI Human Rights Section was also the representative in Côte d'Ivoire of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Advisory Committee was requesting the Secretary-General to clarify the respective responsibilities of UNOCI and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and to make proposals in that connection in the UNOCI budget for 2009/10.

12. **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, reiterated the Group's long-held view that all peacekeeping missions should be provided with sufficient funding to fulfil their mandates. Achieving peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire was an integral part of pursuing stability and development in West Africa.

13. The Group noted that the proposed UNOCI budget for 2008/09 (A/62/750) provided for adjustments in structure and human resources in order to establish a link with the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, and that the adjustments included the conversion of international posts to national posts. The latter measure, which provided an opportunity to build national capacity, should be extended to all other peacekeeping missions. The renewal of 40 quick-impact projects was positive, as such projects increased the peace dividend in Côte d'Ivoire.

14. In accordance with the mandate conferred on it by the Security Council in resolution 1795 (2008), UNOCI had a central role in helping to build the political and security conditions needed for elections to take place. The Group welcomed the steps outlined in the Secretary-General's most recent progress report on UNOCI (S/2008/250) to identify eligible voters and reconstitute civil registers lost or destroyed during the conflict.

15. Concerned at the high projected vacancy rates for UNOCI, and believing that the actual rates might well be higher, the Group recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/276, had requested the Secretary-General to ensure that vacant posts were filled expeditiously. It wished to know what steps the Secretariat had taken to fill existing and new vacancies.

16. The very late issuance of the Advisory Committee report on the financing of UNOCI, as well as its reports on other equally important peacekeeping matters, was unacceptable. The Group hoped that the situation would not recur when the next budget for the Operation was submitted.

17. **Mr. Coffi** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that his delegation was grateful to the Organization for its dedication to, and unfailing support for, the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, enabling a concentration of efforts on conducting free and transparent presidential elections in November 2008, in order to bring closure to the crisis which had begun in September 2002.

18. The outlook for the Agreement was positive, with the United Nations having lowered its security phase, the cantonment of Forces nouvelles members proceeding, militia forces being dismantled, relations with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund being restored and the country's debt to those institutions being repaid. In pursuit of sustainable development, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire had submitted an official request in April 2008 to the President of the Security Council and to the Secretary-General for the country to be placed on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. Subsequent visits to Côte d'Ivoire by the Secretary-General and representatives of the Security Council, and a forthcoming visit by the 130 States members of the Group of 77 and China as part of the High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation, were signs that the Government's objectives enjoyed support.

19. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire wished to emphasize that it had reached a transitional point between peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, seeking to eradicate once and for all the root causes of the conflict that had erupted in September 2002. It hoped that the Committee would take account of the resulting need for flexibility regarding the financing of UNOCI for 2006/07 and 2008/09. Echoing the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, it also hoped that more international posts would be converted to national posts where feasible, in order to build local

capacity and contribute to the ideals of the United Nations.

20. Lastly, his delegation agreed with other delegations that had already raised the disquieting issue of very late submission of documents, including the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNOCI. It would like the Secretariat to explain why it had taken so long to produce, translate and distribute that report in the six official languages, despite the original being available since the end of the previous week, thus making the work of the Fifth Committee more difficult. It hoped that the Fifth Committee's suggestion of establishing a twelve-month programme of work for the Advisory Committee would help to prevent a recurrence of the situation. Such action should perhaps also be taken for all parts of the Secretariat involved in the documentation chain, in order to ensure on-time delivery of the reports needed for efficient administrative oversight by the Fifth Committee.

21. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt) said that the progress made in the recent weekend informal consultations had enabled decisions to be reached on the financing of all peacekeeping operations whose proposed budgets had been introduced before the Committee, with the sole exception of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). A minor and extraneous issue had halted the Committee's efforts, as some delegations maintained that approval of financing for a mission as large as MONUC must await the approval of another resolution which, unlike those concerning peacekeeping operations, was not time-bound. His delegation was concerned at the tendency to create such links, and feared that the same situation might arise in connection with UNOCI.

22. **Mr. Sena** (Brazil) said that, while it did not wish to hamper progress in establishing financing for UNOCI, his delegation agreed with others that it was unacceptable to continue the practice of considering reports which had not first been translated into all of the Organization's official languages. It also took the view that the financing of MONUC should be accorded priority and concluded by the end of the day, with no link to any other pending resolution. Every proposal should be judged on its own merits.

23. **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria) said that filibustering in the discussion of financing for MONUC was not giving the appropriate impression of commitment, engagement and good faith. His delegation trusted that the Committee would show the requisite flexibility, and the Bureau the requisite leadership, to find a solution.

24. **Mr. Tawana** (South Africa) said that the late issuance of documents regarding UNOCI, and indeed other peacekeeping operations, was an abiding concern. As the forthcoming elections in Côte d'Ivoire were a milestone, his delegation fully supported the provision of the resources requested for peacekeeping activities there.

25. With regard to MONUC, his delegation regretted that, for political reasons, intensive weekend discussions had left the issue of that mission's financing unresolved. Believing that the matter should be given priority, and should not be linked to unrelated issues, his delegation would like to know if the Committee was scheduled to return to the issue without delay.

26. **Mr. Diab** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation, having consistently called for the submission of all reports in the Organization's six official languages, was deeply concerned that the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNOCI had been made available in only one of them. It had shown flexibility in the current instance, recognizing that the Committee was short of time.

27. Commending the Committee for its achievement in agreeing on draft resolutions for a large number of peacekeeping operations over the weekend, his delegation regretted that the financing of MONUC remained outstanding because, at a late hour, certain delegations had for some reason become unwilling to exercise the required flexibility. As the Committee had little time left, but much outstanding business to conclude, he hoped that the delegations concerned would enable progress on MONUC to be made rapidly.

28. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that her delegation looked forward to receiving an explanation for the failure to issue reports of the Advisory Committee in all official languages. Even if, as a demonstration of flexibility, the European Union were to consent to the presentation of further Advisory Committee reports in their original language only, it wished to request the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to read the recommendations contained in those reports aloud at the appropriate meetings of the Committee so that they might be interpreted into all the other official languages.

29. The Committee had achieved a great deal during its recent weekend discussions, thanks to the cooperative and constructive spirit shown by all delegations. However, the European Union had raised some serious issues to which it attached great significance. It wished therefore to call for continued flexibility and compromise to address those issues.

30. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had been informed of the language-related concern expressed by a number of delegations, including that of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union, regarding the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNOCI. At the Committee's next meeting, he hoped to provide a response encompassing not only the role of the Department, but also that of the Committee and its Bureau, with chronological details and an account of the decisions taken.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

United Nations A/C.5/62/SR.46

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Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 161: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Other matters

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08-36242 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 161: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
(A/62/781/Add.14 and A/62/791 and Corr.1)

1. **Mr. Sach** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/791 and Corr.1), said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/232, had appropriated funding of $1,275,653,700 for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. The proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 amounted to $1,699,710,000, which represented a 33.2 per cent increase over the resources approved for 2007/08. Because UNAMID had not been established until August 2007, the resource requirements for 2007/08 had been intended to provide for a phased deployment of military contingent personnel and United Nations police and civilian personnel. The 2008/09 proposed budget reflected the requirements for a full 12 months.

2. The main causes of the variance were a higher monthly average deployment of military, police and civilian personnel and additional air transportation requirements resulting from intensified military air patrols and cargo and personnel movements. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate $1,699,710,000 to maintain the mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 to assess the amount of $141,642,500 for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008 and to assess the amount of $1,558,067,500 at a monthly rate of $141,642,500, should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the mission.

3. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/62/781/Add.14), said that the Advisory Committee recommended appropriation of the full amount requested by the Secretary-General in his proposed budget for UNAMID for 2008/09. However, it also recommended that only 50 per cent of that amount should be assessed to cover the six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 2008. The proposed budget was based on a deployment plan aiming for 80 per cent deployment of the authorized strength of UNAMID by the end of 2008 and full deployment of civilian personnel by June 2009. However, planned deployment depended on a number of factors, including engineering capacity sufficient to build new camps and upgrade existing camps; better movement of goods from Port Sudan to Darfur; and cooperation from the host Government in providing land and water access and in speeding the movement of goods across the Sudan into Darfur.

4. The Advisory Committee had noted that expenditure as at 31 May 2008 had amounted to $732,908,700 against a 2007/08 budget of $1,275,653,700. The projected level of expenditure might not be reached. Furthermore, the proposed budget for 2008/09, having been prepared by the Mission within one month of its establishment, was not based on experience in implementing the previous budget. The Advisory Committee nevertheless recognized that, once the Mission had progressed beyond the start-up phase, expenditure would accelerate and the need for adequate funds would become acute.

5. Accordingly, in order to ensure sufficient funding to support the functioning of the Mission, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the appropriation of the full proposed amount of $1,699,710,000. Taking into account the uncertainties outlined in its report and given the current pattern of expenditure, the Advisory Committee recommended assessment of 50 per cent of that sum, namely $849,855,000, for the initial six months of the budget period. Of that amount, $141,642,500 would be assessed for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008 and $708,212,500 would be assessed for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2008, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNAMID.

6 In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended that the Secretary-General should be requested to submit a progress report no later than 30 November 2008 to provide for a revised appropriation and a further assessment, if required. It should give details of the review of the structure of the Mission, address other matters raised by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/232 and indicate any required adjustments to the Joint Mediation Support Team and developments in coordination and collaboration between UNAMID and other missions deployed in the region and the United Nations country team.

7. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said it was regrettable that the largest

of the peacekeeping budgets due for consideration by the Committee had not come before it until some four days before the close of the second part of the resumed sixty-second session. While mindful that UNAMID had a unique, complex mandate aimed at achieving a lasting political solution and sustained security in Darfur and that full deployment had not yet been achieved, the Group remained confident that the Mission would soon be operating at full strength.

8. The Group noted that the Mission must work within frameworks corresponding to the tasks set out in the report of the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the hybrid operation in Darfur (S/2007/307/Rev.1) and reaffirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 1769 (2007). It welcomed the Secretariat's proposal to provide professional development opportunities for national staff and to include them fully in all relevant training programmes, so helping to build capacity in Darfur.

9. Recalling that it had urged the Secretary-General to request the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) audit the use of exceptional financial, recruitment and procurement measures for UNAMID, the Group was pleased to note that OIOS had begun its audit in January 2008 and aimed to complete its work in May 2008 and to report on the results to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

10. **Mr. Poulin** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that, having strongly supported its predecessor, Australia, Canada and New Zealand were committed to the success of UNAMID and were helping African countries contributing troops and police to deploy robust and self-sustaining contingents for the Mission. While recognizing its many complex logistical, administrative and political challenges, including extreme remoteness, poor communications infrastructure and reluctant cooperation from the host Government, the three delegations were concerned that, 10 months after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), UNAMID appeared no more robust than AMIS, the African Union mission it had absorbed. They called on the Organization to provide strong leadership to address the causes of the delays, and on the host Government to demonstrate its commitment to peace and security in Darfur by cooperating fully with UNAMID.

11. Experience in deploying UNAMID had demonstrated the need for stronger integration. While the initiative of establishing the Darfur integrated operational team had yielded some results, the Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support should give the team the requisite power to resolve the numerous obstacles to deployment, and should instruct managers to cooperate with it.

12. While it was understandable that UNAMID, given its scale, should account for the highest peacekeeping budget proposal ever introduced in the Committee, the absence of justification for the operational costs which accounted for half that budget proposal was regrettable. The delegations would seek further details, in informal consultations, on the substantial projected infrastructure costs and on the key assumptions providing the basis for the deployment schedule. Although they wished to see UNAMID fully operational as rapidly as possible, they believed that the current proposed budget relied on over-optimistic deployment assumptions and therefore concurred with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that only a portion of the resources requested should be assessed and that a progress report reflecting the experience gained in implementation should be submitted and examined at the main part of the sixty-third session of the Assembly.

13. **Mr. Traystman** (United States of America) said that collective efforts to assist the people of Darfur depended on the success of the Darfur peace process and of UNAMID. His delegation remained deeply disappointed at the delays in the deployment of the Mission, and urged the Secretary-General to take action to expedite the arrival of peacekeeping forces.

14. Supporting the resource requests in the proposed budget, his delegation recalled that the United States continued to be the largest single donor of assistance to the Sudan as a whole and to Darfur, and that it regarded its substantial assessment for UNAMID as an essential contribution to reduce violence, provide for the people's humanitarian needs and restore peace. It concurred with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that Member States should initially be assessed for only half of the projected cost of the Mission, and then consider a progress report to be submitted by 30 November 2008, potentially leading to a revised appropriation and further assessment.

15. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan) reiterated his delegation's concern at the late issuance of documents, which could not therefore be examined by the Member States with due care. It was particularly troubling that the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNAMID had been issued, in English only, just a few hours prior to the present meeting. Given the importance of the Mission, his delegation had nevertheless agreed to consider the proposed budget.

16. The Sudan welcomed the cooperation of the African Union and the United Nations in deploying the hybrid operation, which had been established to help the Sudanese parties implement the Darfur Peace Agreement. Based on the expectation that sustainable peace would be achieved through negotiation and dialogue, the Sudanese Government had offered — and would continue to offer — all possible support to the Mission. However, the Government's efforts were being undermined by the rebel groups. The international community must respond firmly to the actions of the rebels, to safeguard its resources and the lives of its personnel. The Sudanese people were well prepared to fight the rebels and had recently defeated an attack by the Justice and Equality Movement — which was supported by some Member States — in just a few hours.

17. Effective realization of the Mission's objectives must start with effective planning. The Sudanese Government had noted a high vacancy rate, particularly in respect of temporary national posts. The Mission must examine the causes of such shortfalls and apply lessons learned instead of offering illogical justifications. The Sudan would address that issue during informal consultations.

18. Regarding national United Nations Volunteers, the Secretariat had failed to reassess the situation, simply repeating its previous assertion that the low number of such volunteers proposed in the budget was the result of the difficulty experienced by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in attracting them. It was important to bear in mind that UNAMID was a separate mission and that the experience with UNMIS was not necessarily relevant.

19. In its resolution 62/232, the General Assembly had recommended procurement within the region to supply the needs of peacekeeping missions. Noting that the Secretary-General's report had not addressed that issue, the Sudanese Government requested a detailed explanation of what share of total purchases made during the previous period had been local purchases.

20. Although the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNAMID (A/62/791) had not mentioned any lack of cooperation on the part of the Government of Sudan, certain partners remained unwilling to meet the Mission's most basic needs. Despite various appeals from the Secretary-General, Member States had taken months to reach a decision on the provision of helicopters. Similarly, the Sudanese Government had waited three months for the United Nations to sign the status-of-forces agreement (SOFA). In conclusion, the shortcomings of the operation were well known to all. The Sudanese would cooperate fully with all parties during the informal consultations to address those shortcomings and establish a budget that was commensurate with UNAMID's important role.

21. **Mr. Yamada** (Japan) said that the Committee should ensure that all peacekeeping operations established by Security Council mandate were implemented effectively, while also striving to enhance budgetary discipline, accountability and transparency.

22. In the view of his delegation, before embarking on the approach recommended by the Advisory Committee, namely approving the entire proposed UNAMID appropriation, but only assessing part of that amount, in order to leave open the possibility of revision, the General Assembly should perhaps consider the option of adjusting the level of assessments on the basis of updated information regarding the deployment of military and police personnel. That might in turn affect both the deployment of civilian personnel and operational costs, leading to lower expenditure.

23. Believing that a reduction of 30 per cent was realistic in the light of the current situation, his delegation wished the Secretary-General to provide the latest information on force generation and on preparations for deployment, based on the progress made in implementing Security Council resolution 1769 (2007).

Other matters

24. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had been notified of the request made at the Committee's 45th meeting by the representative of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the

European Union, for an explanation of the failure to issue in a timely manner and in all languages the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (issued subsequently as document A/62/781/Add.13).

25. On 22 April 2008, the Chairman of the Fifth Committee had written to the Under-Secretaries-General for Management, Field Support and General Assembly and Conference Management, as well as to the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, regarding the lack of availability of documents for the second part of the resumed sixty-second session of the General Assembly. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, while attributing the delay to the late arrival, and in some cases also the excessive length, of peacekeeping budget documents, had emphasized his Department's commitment to the timely issuance of reports.

26. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management had indicated that his Department had been doing its utmost to mitigate the considerable impact of late arrival of documents, through close coordination with the Fifth Committee and the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee, in order to adjust document processing schedules when feasible. However, the late issuance or even non-availability of documents had forced the Fifth Committee to consider postponing by one week the second part of the resumed session and to constantly revise its programme of work. That had in turn affected the processing schedules of the Department.

27. In addition, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had worked closely with the Department of Management, as an author department, and with the secretariat of the Fifth Committee, to find more effective solutions to the problem. The Secretary-General was committed to the issuance of all documents in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

28. With regard to the chronology of recent events, on Thursday, 29 May 2008, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had received 87 pages of text from the Advisory Committee for processing in three working days. On the same day, the secretariat of the Fifth Committee had informed the Department that the Bureau of that Committee had decided to consider the 16-page report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi in English only, on the basis of an advance, unedited text, and requested the Department's assistance to print and distribute to the Committee 200 copies of that report.

29. Subsequently, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had received for processing the 16-page report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNOCI; the 18-page report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNAMID; and the 6-page report of the Advisory Committee on contingent-owned equipment. Having spoken to representatives of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on Friday, 29 May 2008, he had been assured that the Advisory Committee reports regarding UNOCI and the United Nations Logistics Base would be issued on Tuesday, 3 June 2008 the day of the current meeting, and had relayed that information to the Bureau of the Fifth Committee.

30. The Bureau had updated the Fifth Committee's programme of work following the 44th meeting of the Committee, pointing out that the report on the financing of UNOCI would not be available in all the official languages by the 45th meeting on Monday, 2 June 2008, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management having made no commitment to make it available by that date. The Advisory Committee reports on the financing of UNOCI and on the United Nations Logistics Base had been issued in all the official languages on the day of the current meeting, as expected, as documents A/62/781/Add.13 and A/62/781/Add.12.

31. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management had received the report of the Advisory Committee on the financing of UNAMID at 10 p.m. on Friday, 30 May, 2008. It too had been issued in all the official languages on the day of the current meeting, as document A/62/781/Add.14. The three reports regarding contingent-owned equipment, totalling 345 pages, would be issued on Wednesday, 4 June 2008, at 6 a.m.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.